• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. IX November 30, 1942 No. 11

How Men Who Saw Tomorrow Prepared This Area For War Told In New Picture

Because "They Saw Tomorrow", the cities of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are prepared today with an abundant and dependable water supply to sustain and protect in this strategic area the tremendous war work vitally essential to the existence of the United States.

The epic story of those Southern Californians who twenty years ago possessed the vision to see the future needs of this region and the courage to undertake the gigantic task of meeting those needs is to be set forth in a natural color motion picture now being completed. This new film, being produced through the cooperation of the Metropolitan Water District, is expected to be available for exhibition early in January.

Graphically the motion picture drives home the fundamental fact that the people who set about the development of Southern California faced the same task that has stood before all men who have sought to live and prosper in the golden warmth of a desert sun. Going far back in the history of mankind, it is pointed out that the same necessity confronted the ancient empires built in Babylon, in Egypt and in Carthage. Failure vigilantly to protect such development from the constant menace of the desert always invited disaster. Great cities were stricken by lingering years

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Contract For South Coast Line Awarded

Acting on the recommendation of General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds, the Board of Directors at its meeting on November 30, awarded to the American Pipe and Construction Co. (formerly the American Concrete and Steel Pipe Co.) the contract to install an aqueduct distribution pipe line extension that will deliver water to the Coastal Municipal Water District.

The contracting firm to which the work was awarded submitted the lowest bid, which was in the amount of $798,033. The work it will perform will include the excavation of 10.9 miles of welded steel pipe that formerly delivered water from Morris reservoir to

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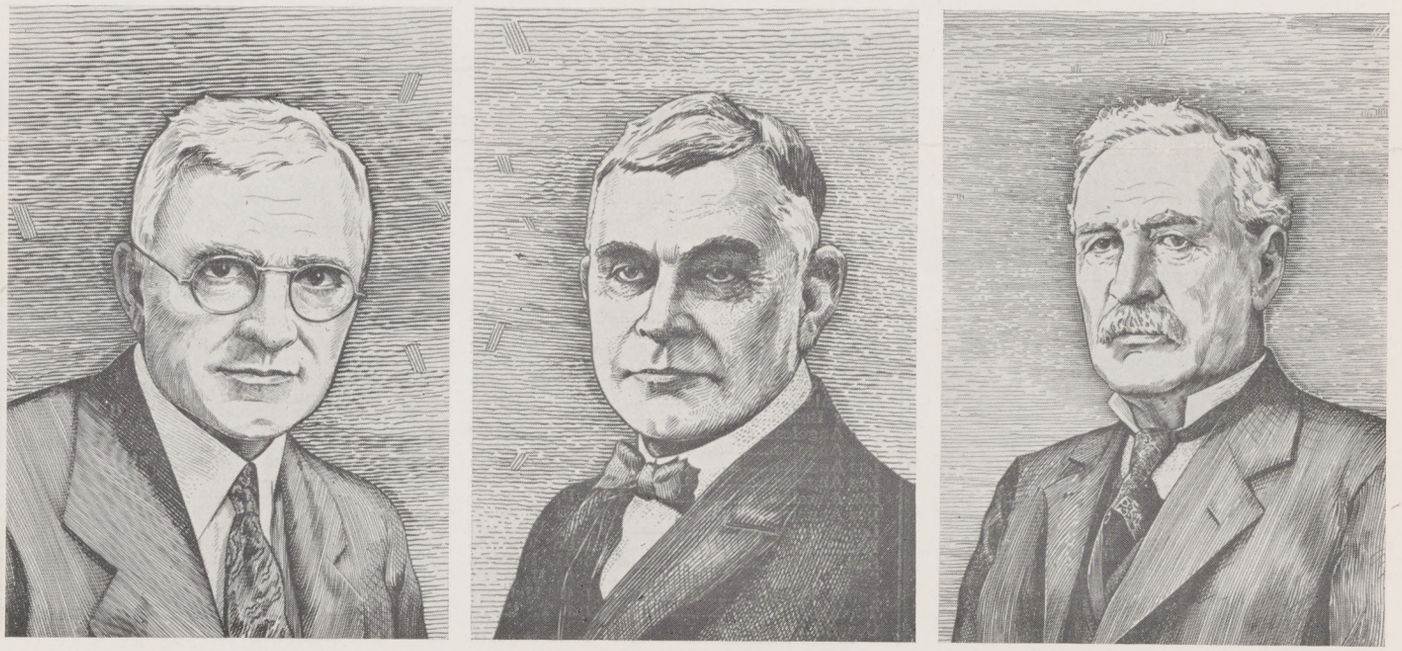

These men saw tomorrow. (Left to Right) Frank E. Weymouth, (1874-1941) the first General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District; W. B. Mathews, (1865-1931) the first General Counsel of the District; William Mulholland, (1855-1935) the man who set under way the first surveys on the Colorado River Aqueduct.

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Aqueduct Work Done To Serve War Plants

To meet the requirements of a large aluminum plant and two synthetic rubber plants that have been located during the past year immediately adjacent to the Eagle Rock-Palos Verdes feeder of the Colorado River Aqueduct distribution system, additional construction work on this line was carried forward during November. The work consisted principally in the construction of concrete encasements around the aqueduct pipe line where it is to be crossed by railroad spurs leading into the war plants, which are situated near the southern boundary of the city of Los Angeles.

South Coast Line

(*Continued from Page* 1)

Pasadena, the installation of this pipe as a part of the new feeder line to the South Coast area and, in addition, the installation of 1.7 miles of precast concrete pipe on the same delivery line.

Total estimated cost of the South Coast line extension is $1,140,000, not including cost of rights of way.

On November 30, the District issued a call for bids on specifications No. 360 covering the coal-tar enamel and the primer required for the coating of the steel pipe.

Included in the delivery line extending south from Santa Ana is a small reservoir which will serve as a pressure break on the line and will regulate the flow of water made available for the service of Laguna Beach, South Laguna, Costa Mesa and the remainder of the territory within the boundaries of the Coastal Municipal Water District.

It is expected that actual installation of the new Colorado River Aqueduct distribution line will be set under way immediately.

They Saw Tomorrow

(*Continued from Page* 1)

of drought—and were buried by the silent and remorseless sands of the wastelands.

We are reminded in the new film story that modern warriors for freedom and liberty—men who were reared and trained for war in this semiarid part of Western America—are this day advancing over the shifting sands of North Africa, under which lie buried the ruins of Carthage and the ambitious plans of forgotten despots of an age long past.

Basically, the motion picture is devoted to an authentic presentation of the conditions in Southern California which caused far-sighted leaders to recognize the urgent need for the bringing in of additional and everlasting water supplies from the distant Colorado River. It sets forth the legal, engineering and financial obstacles that stood in the way, and explains the steps that were taken by the people and their leaders to solve each problem in turn—and to clear the way for the building of the longest and largest domestic water supply line in the United States.

The film draws attention to the fact that the aqueduct was completed in the summer of 1941. It shows the beautiful Southern California homes and gardens and the industries thus provided with an assured water supply. It goes into the home and makes plain the manner in which the soft and filtered water made available by the Colorado River Aqueduct has extended new benefits to the home manager in the kitchen, the bath and the laundry.

This was Southern California in the summer of 1941. Then, on December 7, America was plunged into a war for its existence and for the freedoms it holds as dear as life itself. By a turn of fate, Southern California suddenly became one of the country's most strategic centers of defensive and offensive operations. At that moment, we are reminded in the motion picture, anxious inquiries were directed to this region from Government officials and industrial leaders from every corner of the United States. How about this semiarid section? Was there water enough instantly available and at hand? Was there water enough for enormous military establishments that ought to be concentrated in this area? Was there water enough for steel mills and synthetic rubber factories? Was there water enough for a hitherto undreamed of expansion in the production of airplanes?

And to each and every one of these inquiries, it is pointed out, the answer went back promptly and plain.

"Yes, there is water enough and in plenty in the areas served by the Colorado River Aqueduct to meet fully and dependably all military, industrial, business and domestic requirements."

There was water enough—because the people and their leaders in the cities of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California had possessed the vision to recognize the needs of the future and the courage and will to prepare to meet those needs in time.

- DIRECTORY -

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Field Supt., Pumping Plants ..... T. T. Walsh

• MONTHLY REPORT •

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in November, 1942, covering work done in October.)

Construction

Parker Power Plant—Bureau of Reclamation forces continued installation of power generating equipment of Units 2 and 3, and made operating tests on Unit 1.

Ground Wires on 230 kv Transmission Line—Bids for structural steel brackets, cable, and hardware were opened October 6 and contracts awarded.

Coastal Municipal Water District Line—A preference rating order for the Orange County feeder extension has been issued to the District by the War Production Board. An AA-3 rating has been given the project.

Operation and Maintenance

General — Boulder power taken by Basic Magnesium, Inc. increased from 400,000 kwhrs per day at the beginning of the month to about 700,000 at the end of the month, the maximum demand reaching 30,000 kw. Delivery of Colorado River water to the Army continued at various points. The Chief Electrical Engineer attended a meeting of the Colorado River Basin Committee of Sixteen at Denver on October 17.

Design—Principal work during the month was design and drafting in connection with the Orange County feeder extension and preparation of specifications therefor.

Parker Dam—The water surface elevation in Lake Havasu was raised from 429.1 on the last day of September to 445.5 on the last day of October. Average discharge of the Colorado River at this point during October was 14,077 c.f.s. The Mohave Indian who in 1939 gave the name Havasu to this reservoir passed away October 21, 1942 at the age of 105 years.

Main Aqueduct—Drilling of an additional area of Danby Dry Lake required by the terms of the District's sodium prospecting permit was completed and samples of salt and brine taken from the test holes are being analyzed. In preparation for delivery of Colorado River water to Lake Mathews, the Copper Basin gates were opened October 15 at 3 p.m. The flow reached Lake Mathews at 9:15 p.m. October 17. The sand traps at Iron, Eagle, and Hayfield were cleaned, and the reservoir at Eagle was drained and cleaned.

Pumping Plants — Routine maintenance of pumping plants, transmission and telephone lines, and District roads was continued. The water surface of Lake Havasu was raised to pumping level and pumping was resumed at Intake on October 7.

Distribution System — The reservoir shores were cleared of weeds and debris up to elevation 1346 in readiness for receipt of additional Colorado River water. General maintenance of the area was continued, water samples were taken, and miscellaneous records were kept. The water surface on October 31 stood at elevation 1339.11, a rise of 1.44 feet and an increase in storage of 2,369 acre feet to 74,384 acre feet during the month. Routine operation and maintenance were continued at the Softening and Filtration Plant. Hardness of the water was reduced from 381 to 101 p.p.m. The city of Compton has made connection to an existing turnout on the Compton lateral at Wilmington and Rosecrans avenues to serve a new housing project.

Hydrographic—Regular and special meetings of the Colorado River Board of California were attended for discussion of water problems of the Basin. Storage in Lake Mead on October 31 was 27,786,000 acre feet.

Employment — During October, 28 classified positions were filled, 17 by transfer and 11 by new employment. The personnel office also recorded 16 terminations, 17 changes of status, 15 employment contracts, and 83 interviews.

Right of Way—One new reverse lease was made on aqueduct right of way east of Lake Mathews. There are now in effect 3 leases, 31 reverse leases and 12 rentals. In the citrus groves, lemon trees were sprayed and pruning of all trees was started. On the Romick portion of the property 5,172 boxes of Valencia oranges were picked this season compared with 4,377 last year.

Purchasing and Salvage—There were issued during the month 206 purchase orders in a total amount of approximately $6,780.00. Carload freight movements consisted of 8 cars of salt and 2 cars of silicate of soda to the softening plant. Cash salvage sales for the month amounted to $14,221.66. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand at the end of the month was $364,231.39.

Best Gift of All

Better than 10 per cent by January 1.

This is the war bond buying objective of the District's Los Angeles office employees and the other operating departments of the aqueduct that already have won the right to fly the coveted Minute Man Flag.

The payroll deduction plan by which District men and women are regularly buying their share of war bonds was initiated and is carried forward through the Metropolitan Water District Employees Federal Credit Union. In November the Credit Union officially was accredited as a duly authorized agent of the United States Treasury Department for the issuance of war savings bonds.

Power Line Work

With a testing crew at work along the District's 237-mile transmission line from Boulder Dam to the five aqueduct pumping plants, Chief Electrical Engineer James M. Gaylord, during November, was directing the completion of preparations for the installation of a grounding system.

Arrangements have been made by the District for the housing and feeding of the men that will be engaged in placing the grounding cables.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Lieut. William W. Aultman, U. S. N.

William W. Aultman, the District's Water Purification Engineer, was granted military leave on November 18, when he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Naval Reserve Construction Battalion. He was assigned to Camp Allen, Norfolk, Virginia, for a short training course. Beyond that the Navy saith not.

Bill Aultman is a member of the Old Timers Club of the aqueduct builders. He had been with the District since 1930. He was engaged in water softening and filtration studies and tests preliminary to the designing and building of the Softening and Filtration Plant, and has been in direct charge of the operation of the plant ever since its completion.

Richard (Dick) Stephens, one of the original aqueducters, visited former associates in the District's Los Angeles office one day in November. He was on his way to Porto Rico, where he is to take over engineering duties with J. L. Burkholder, who is directing naval construction work in the Carribean area. For some time before Dick left the District several years ago, he was Office Engineer at the Banning Field Headquarters and later served in the same capacity with Mr. Burkholder on the International Boundary Commission, with headquarters at El Paso, Texas.

John W. Tuttle, Utility Man employed on miscellaneous construction work for the District, has been granted military leave to enter the U. S. Army.

Hugh Jones, who resigned from his engineering work with the District early this year to accept a position with Macco-Robertson Company, engaged largely in the construction of utilities for war establishments, is now a Captain in the Army Engineers Corps. At the present time Captain Jones is on duty in the Salt Lake area.

Miss Sharon Elaine Odell, weighing 6 pounds and 12 ounces, arrived at the Good Samaritan Hospital on November 17. The mother, Thelma Odell, formerly performed secretarial duties in the Miscellaneous Activities Division. Father Odell is now in the U. S. Navy.

And now it's Chief Petty Officer Fred Fauble, U. S. N. Remembered by hundreds of old-time aqueducters as Field Clerk in the Coachella Division and as an assistant to Col. Jamieson in the Labor Office, Fred, after leaving the District in 1939, for about two years engaged in naval construction work at Pearl Harbor.

Eugene (Gene) Reynolds, as he appears today in the uniform of an instructor in the operation and maintenance of Army motor equipment. Before he went on leave from the District he was Foreman of the Los Angeles garage.

Jean Case Randall

After serving with the District ever since July, 1930, during which time she performed responsible bookkeeping duties in the Controller's Office, Jean Case Randall resigned from the aqueduct organization in November in order to be near her husband, who is now in the U. S. Army and presently stationed at San Antonio.

Word comes that Captain Charles Brandt, now serving with American Army forces in Australia, is the proud father of a son born on October 24 and christened Charles Ely. Mrs. Brandt, who was Eleanor Ely before her marriage, is residing in Los Angeles.

Charles R. Witt, attendant at the Softening and Filtration Plant, has been granted military leave to enter the service of the U. S. Navy.

Out on the remote aqueduct desert stations, a thousand miles (approximately) from nowhere, the gasoline ration books have a meaning all their own. A is for Ain't no good: B is for Better'n nothin': C is for Can do—maybe.

"But we all recollect Pearl Harbor," say the men and their families. "This A, B, C business is easy. We're helping to hand the Axis everything from A to Z—and plenty more!"

1st Lieutenant George Parker, Army Fighter Pilot and a veteran of air battles in Java and New Guinea, recently visited the District's offices. He's a son-in-law of R. B. Diemer.